

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6296

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, JA

SUBJECT: NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKI, FUMIHIKO SUZUKI

REF: TOKYO 0999

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY JANUARY 20 NAMED FUMIHIKO SUZUKI AS AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, VICE SABURO KIMOTO. AMBASSADOR KIMOTO HAS BEEN REASSIGNED TO LIMA (REFTEL).

2. FOR MOST OF HIS CAREER, SUZUKI HAS SERVED AS AN ECONOMIC OFFICER WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MATTERS. EMBASSY BELIEVES HIS APPOINTMENT REFLECTS RECENTLY HEIGHTENED JAPANESE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING EASTERN EUROPE AS A MAJOR BUYER OF PLANTS AND MACHINERY.

3. SUZUKI, 56, JOINED MOFA IN 1942. AFTER TRAINING ASSIGNMENT IN U.S. (1950), HE SERVED IN ECONOMIC BUREAU (1951-4), IN WASHINGTON (1954-6), IN THE ELITE TREATIES BUREAU (1956-8) AND ON DETAIL TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (1958-60). SUBSEQUENTLY, SUZUKI WAS ON THE JAPANESE DELEGATION TO TWO GATT CONFERENCES WHILE DIRECTOR OF THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION OF THE ECONOMIC BUREAU (1960-62) THEN, AS 1ST SECRETARY, LATER COUNSELOR OF THE JAPANESE MISSION IN GENEVA FOR FOUR YEARS, HE WAS IN THE WORDS OF A YOUNGER MOFA COLLEAGUE, "THE KEY MAN ON THE JAPANESE TEAM" AT THE KENNEDY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROUND GATT NEGOTIATIONS. SUZUKI RETURNED FROM GENEVA TO THE

ECONOMIC BUREAU, SERVING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1967-70) AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL 1970-71). IN JANUARY 1972 HE WAS POSTED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN SYDNEY, AND RETURNED TO TOKYO 1973 TO BECOME DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BUREAU UNTIL LAUGUST 1975. IN THAT JOB, AND DURING HIS SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENT AS A MOFA COUNCILLER (A HOLDING POSITION UNTIL AN AMBASSADORSHIP BECOMES AVAILABLE.), HE HAS HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS.

4. SUZUKI'S WIFE IS NAMED KAZUKO; THE SUZUKIS HAVE A SON, 17, AND A DAUGHTER, 9. HE IS AN AVID ART COLLECTOR.

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